

# **National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection**

## **Update on Applying the Mark of Inspection to Product Tested for an Adulterant**

In June 2004, FSIS presented to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) an issue concerning whether FSIS should apply the mark of inspection to product that has been tested for an adulterant before the Agency has received the results of the testing. The Committee considered the issue and its impact on industry, especially small and very small establishments, and made a number of recommendations to the Agency. The Committee could not reach consensus on whether the Agency should effect a test and hold policy for when it samples products for adulterants, but did point out that that majority of establishments do so voluntarily. It also stated that the policy would have a significant impact on small operations.

In general, the Committee recommended that the Agency continue to encourage establishments to develop a plan for holding products when they are sampled for adulterants. The Committee went on to recommend that FSIS provide additional guidance to plants regarding holding products, and to work with the industry through seminars and information sharing on strategies that would mitigate some of the practical problems associated with the practice. The Committee also recommended that the Agency notify establishments of when it intends to take samples so that an establishment can make appropriate business decisions on holding products. Finally, the Committee recommended that the Agency's policies on residue testing should not be changed.

While no final decision has been made FSIS is developing a proposal and considering all issues raised by our constituents and NACMPI. If the proposal is issued there will be a public comment period and we would encourage your comment. The Agency also is preparing guidance to industry on holding products including suggested strategies for mitigating some practical problems. FSIS will update as necessary any instructions to field personnel regarding notice to establishments of sampling.

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